

The Spirit of St. James

The Newsletter from St. James Episcopal Church

2050 Bert Kouns
Shreveport, Louisiana, 71118
318-686-1261



December 15, 2017



December 17

8:30am

Rite 1 service with Eucharist

11:00am

Christmas Pageant

Lessons and Carols



December 24

10am

Rite 2 service with Eucharist

4:30pm

Family worship

Rite 2 service with Eucharist

10:30pm

Christmas Eve worship

Rite 2 service with Eucharist



December 25

9am

Christmas Day Worship

Rite 2 service with Eucharist

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2050 Bert Kouns Industrial Loop
Shreveport, LA 71118

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Presiding Bishop,
The Episcopal Church:
The Most Rev'd
Michael Curry

Bishop, Diocese of Western
Louisiana:
The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Jacob
Owensby

Rector:
The Rev'd Margaret Ayers

Organist/Choir Director:
Kaye Crichlow

Nursery:
Rhonda Robertson

Parish Administrator:
Jnanne Zepeda

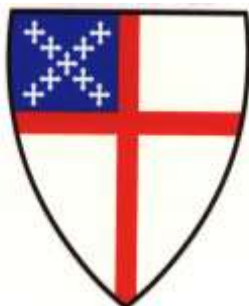
2017 Vestry:
David Scott (19)—Sr.
Warden
Mike Endicott (19)—Jr.
Warden

Members:

Sissy Brown (18)
David Caporossi (20)
Krystal Eason (20)
Karen McDonald (18)
Ken Murphy (19)
Lauren Ocmund (20)
Pat Parker (18)
Austin Shelton (18)

Ex Officio:

Thomas Mosley—Treasurer
Julie Eason—Deputy
Treasurer
Janie Parker—Clerk



Church phone: 318-686-1261
Church fax: 318-686-4527
Church E-mail address:
stjames_sport@att.net
Church website:
www.stjames-shreveport.org



Margaret's Musings



I don't know about you but I find it too early to put out Christmas items and start Christmas music in October. I cherish celebrating each holiday, but because Christmas is a cash cow for retail establishments it is getting more and more time in front of us on retail shelves. I understand the need to make a profit, but what happened to the meanings behind Thanksgiving and Christmas?

Thanksgiving harkens back to the days dominated by agriculture and the blessing of a good harvest. We recall the story of Ruth and the farmers leaving grain around the edge of their fields for the poor to harvest and eat. Without that food, Ruth and Naomi might have died and the lineage from David to Jesus might have been broken. The way we treat those who are hungry and/or poor reminds us of others' contributions to the coming of Jesus.

Being liturgical and someone who grew up in the north where we have four seasons in a year, I like seasons! Advent, the preparation for the birth of Christ, the Messiah has become a season of shopping and parties. How do we use this time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus and not a day of presents for ourselves?

First, I would suggest slowing down and living in the now. Crazy!?!? Yes, in a month of planning ahead (presents, food for parties and Christmas Eve through Day, and various social obligations) we are hard-pressed to live in the moment. A Spiritual discipline, living in the moment is touted in advertisements with parents missing contact with their child during dinner because they are on their cell phones or Harry Chapin's song "Cat's Cradle" co-written with his wife Sandy. The song is about a man who is so busy he misses moments with his son until his son is so busy with his life there is no time for a relationship. While these are extremes, we tend to be so focused on the future we skip over the present. A woman cannot in a healthy way hurry up a pregnancy; she must wait for the child to grow within her; a person with a serious health concern must slow down and wait out the treatment.

Second, see how you can serve others; something St. James is good at. Sometimes your problems may be overwhelming, yet often seeing others' situation may give a needed perspective. When we hone in on how something hurt us we can develop a empathy towards others. Jesus seemed to have an empathy toward those who came to him broken by life, hardships and illness, still seeking help and hope.

Finally, find ways in your home or church to remember the coming birth of Jesus. Remember the traditions which caused the yearning desire for the Christ child through the Old Testament. Remember, we also have the call of God to take care of the widows, orphans and foreigners among us. Remember and teach our Baptismal Covenant to ourselves and our children in words and action.

May the Peace, Hope, and Love Jesus brought into the world surround and comfort you this season of light shining through the darkness. Blessings.

Margaret+

Outreach News

Thanks to everyone who filled shoeboxes for the shoebox challenge so that children who may otherwise go without will receive Christmas gifts this season. Thanks also to those who participated in the Fuller Center Christmas Store by plucking tags from the Angel Tree and delivering donated items to the Parish Hall. Special thanks to those who made the time to help price items, stock shelves, assist shoppers, and wrap gifts.

As we anticipate activities in 2018, please be aware of opportunities to purchase items on sale or clearance that you know will be useful later for any of the following ministries:

- Fuller Center Christmas Store
- Shoebox challenge
- Food Bank of NWLA canned goods drive
- Backpack program



These are ministries in which St. James participates regularly. If we take advantage of the sales when we see them we can be better stewards of the money we spend on charitable giving by increasing the number of people we can afford to help!

IT IS TIME TO SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORTS

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 28th, and the Annual Report provides the parish with an overview of what we accomplished in the previous year. Heads of each committee should submit written reports to the parish office by January 9th in order for them to be assembled into The Annual Report. Please submit in a timely manner so the office staff doesn't need to nag you with annoying e-mails, phone calls, or notes—and you know I will. Reports are needed from the following sources:

Praise & Worship Team
Adult Sunday School
Children's Sunday School
Memorial Committee
Altar Guild
Acolytes and Altar Party (Lay Readers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers)
Greeter's Ministry
Community Garden Committee
Outreach Committee
Intercessors
Eucharistic Visitors
LDI (Filling in the Gaps)
St. Luke's Mobile Medical Ministry
20's and 30's Group
Stewardship Committee
KAIIROS/KAIIROS Outside

Nursery
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Treasurer
Legacy Committee
Canterbury House
Adult Forum
Choir
ECW
EYC
DOK
Cursillo
A/V support

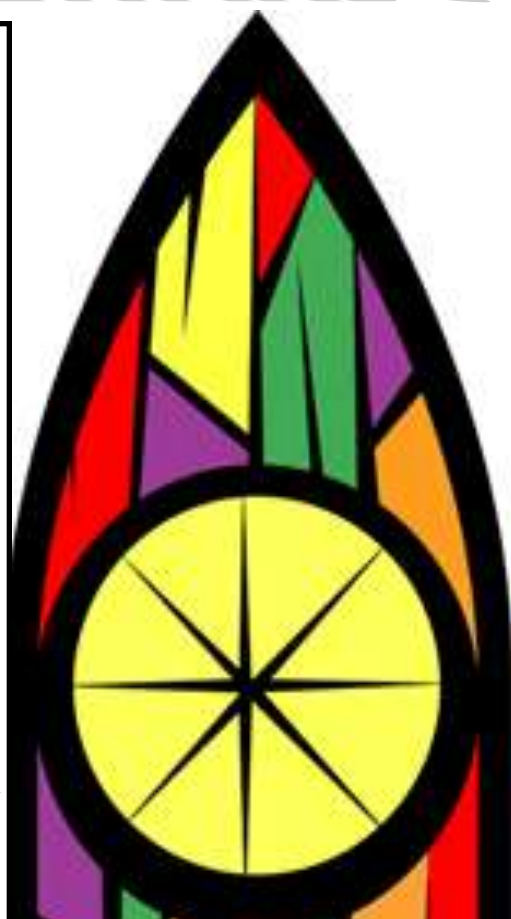


THE GOOD STEWARDS

Thanks to Matt Parker for his skilled carpentry work that resulted in a beautiful new cabinet in the parish office to house the security monitoring system. The new location of the monitors allows for more efficient use of the system. It is now at eye-level from the reception desk and is situated so as not to have glare from the overhead lights reflecting off the screen. The same day that Matt built the cabinet he also changed out the dying light fixture in the ceiling, creating a brighter, more friendly atmosphere in the office. Thanks to Matt for his hard work and to Kelly Parker for her assistance with the project.

Thanks to Sissy Brown and Mike Endicott for continuing to pick up the donations from Pizza Hut each week. Thanks also to Ron Maberry and Kathy Watkins (and Mike) for regularly heating them in preparation for sending the food to hungry students at Green Oaks High School. **Now that the football season has ended the Girls' Basketball team is receiving the bounty.**

These are some of the ways that St. James makes use of the time and talents of our parishioners as we strive to be good stewards toward each other and our community.



DEDICATION OF ST. JAMES KITCHEN TO NITA MAGEE

St. James has honored the life and legacy of Juanita (Nita) Jordan Magee by dedicating our new kitchen in the Parish Hall to her. Nita died in 2016 at the age of 95. Many of us considered her the Matriarch of St. James; her long life was filled with devotion to God and the inspiration to bring others the peace and joy of knowing Jesus Christ and His love for all of us. She was confirmed at St. James in 1958 and for 58 years was a faithful, active, and gifted parishioner. We parishioners of St. James owe her an unpayable debt of gratitude for her service to God, to His and our church, and to her fellow parishioners.

The plaque in the kitchen reads:

**THE ST. JAMES KITCHEN
IS DEDICATED TO
NITA MAGEE, 1921-2016
ST. JAMES PARISHIONER
FOR 58 YEARS**

“A TRUE CHILD OF THE LIGHT”

The plaque also includes a photo of Nita. All three of her children were present for the dedication on October 23, 2017. Nita's greatest gift was teaching the Bible; I see her in Heaven sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to His words.

—*Mattie Mosley*





Photos by Lee O. Savage

Chris Love, recognizing a real need, reached out to help vulnerable Gail Dzvornick.

Reaching Out GIFT STARTS WITH LOVE

Woman in need receives complete home comfort system, thanks God

Gail Dzvornick had been praying for a miracle, and it came in the form of a guy named Love.

Chris Love, a service technician with Shreveport Service Experts Heating and Air Conditioning, arrived at Dzvornick's house last winter on a routine service call because her heater was not working, he said.

What he discovered was a 28-year-old unit barely hanging on. "The unit was in really bad shape," he said. When he checked on her air conditioning several months later, the situation had deteriorated. He discovered that not only were the motor and electrical components bad, the capacitors were almost completely out.

"I told her that basically the unit was pretty well done and that I couldn't tell her how much longer it would keep running before it caused her issues and problems," said Love. "She started crying and told me she couldn't afford to even put a part on it much less anything else. She was on a

very fixed income."

"I can take the hot summer, but in the winter, my body gets stiff, and I can't function if I don't have heat," said the 74-year-old. Dzvornick, who is wheelchair-bound, was born with cerebral palsy and has undergone 22 different orthopedic surgeries in her lifetime, she said.

Though he didn't tell her then, Love said he went back to the office and began trying to discover what could be done for her.

"We could have repaired it, but it would have been throwing good money after bad," said Love's general manager, Lee Savage. So, the whole office decided to pitch in to see how they could help.

"We all got involved with trying to get the company we do most of our business with, which is Lennox, to donate a system to her," said Savage. "We were successful, and all the guys were on board to help out."

"They called me one day and told me they just couldn't leave me like this, and they decided I needed a new unit, and they were going to give it to me at no charge," said Dzvornick.

Dzvornick received a complete home comfort system from Lennox, valued at nearly \$8,500, which technicians with Shreveport Service Experts installed free of charge on a recent Saturday.

"Honestly, I was willing to pay them to do it one Saturday, but they all said nope,"

said Savage. "They wanted to donate their time. It makes you happy as an employer to have people who are willing to do that."

"She was just absolutely beside herself," said Savage. "I just can't explain to you the level of excitement and appreciation she had. She had basically said that she had been praying for help and said, 'There is a God, and He answered my prayers.'"

"She started crying and told me that she felt like she won the lottery," said Love. "She said these types of things don't happen to people."

"I feel like God really has blessed me," said Dzvornick. "I'm really thankful for everything they've done. I won't forget it."

Shreveport Service Experts has been serving the community since 1952 with six NATE-certified technicians. The center also collects care packages for the homeless and maintains the Do Good Project, a Facebook page that raises money and repairs homes in the area for those in need. This year alone, the Do Good Project has collected and distributed more than 500 care packages and completed three service projects repairing, painting and upgrading homes for those who can't afford to.

The page, founded by Savage, recently formed as an official 501(c)3 to facilitate an annual campaign to raise money to pay the bills of local cancer patients.

Located at 8932 Jewella Ave., Suite B in Shreveport, Shreveport Service Experts Heating and Air Conditioning can be reached at (318) 588-8163 or www.serviceexpertsla.com.

— Tammy Sharp



Chris Love, Service Experts, company volunteers and the generosity of Lennox made a big difference in Gail Dzvornick's life.

THE MISSION CONTINUES...in Minden at a new Location



St. Luke's Medical Ministry has a new clinic location in Minden, The Christian Church at Minden. St. Luke's has been setting up for screenings every 3rd Saturday of the month when The Christian Church at Minden's ministry, the Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry, distributes food. St. Luke's has been coming to this location since September.



Jimmy, Toby, and I went to the clinic held October 21, 2017, to see how the new location did. They saw about 20 clients... pretty good.

~Kathy Deal



<i>Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	<i>4th Sunday after the Epiphany</i>
<i>January 21</i>	<i>January 28</i>
<i>3:1-5, 10 62 thians 7:29-31 :14-20</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111:6-14 I Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28</i>
MURPHY	KAREN MCDONALD
arker Whatley	Brody Fitzpatrick Julie Eason
urphy	David Scott
ker rown	Debbie Fitzpatrick Kathleen Calhoun
arker es	Kelly Parker Mason Garner
arker Endicott a Maielli	Janie Parker Linda Endicott Chelsea Maielli
er Shelton Kendrick	volunteer Mike Kendrick Betty McDonald
ndicott	Mike Endicott



The ECW of St. James invites you to attend

**Krewe of St. James
Mardi Gras Ball
January 20, 2018**

7pm – 11pm * Parish Hall
\$30 per person

featuring
WINDSTORM

Reservations required: misshappydog@aol.com

BYOB with set ups provided;
Please bring a nibble to share.
(Designated drivers available)

Please make checks payable to: **St. James ECW**

HEARTFELT THANKS

Long-time parishioner Mary Joe Thomas has been unable to attend services at St. James due to health concerns. Recently she had a pacemaker implanted and currently cannot

use her dominant hand, so she phoned the parish office to share information she wishes to convey to the parish. Joe was thrilled that our rector, Margaret, brought her a home-cooked thanksgiving dinner and stayed to chat, “just like she was the girl next door.” They had a wonderful time, as they have during each of their visits together. Joe “thoroughly enjoyed every morsel of the food,” including the soup.

Joe sends her thanks to the parish for remembering her and noted that, “St. James has many good cooks.” She added to her list of thanks the statement that, “We are fortunate to have Margaret.”



St. James Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	
		2	3
7 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15AM Coffee 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II	8	9	10
		HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jana Kendrick Dave Caporossi Joseph Thrash	
14 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II HAPPY BIRTHDAY Renee Strickland Lauren Jackson	15 ←Vestry Nominations Due	16	17
		HAPPY BIRTHDAY Roger Wilkinson	
21 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II HAPPY BIRTHDAY Curtis Shelton	22	23	24
28 10 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II Potluck Annual Meeting	29 ←HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Ron & Lois Maberry ←HAPPY BIRTHDAY Madelyn Johnson HAPPY BIRTHDAY Bobbye Smith	30	31



		<i>1st Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	<i>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	<i>3rd</i>
		<i>January 7</i>	<i>January 14</i>	
LECTIONARY		<i>Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11</i>	<i>I Samuel 3: 1-20 Psalm 139: 1- 5, 12- 17 I Corinthians 6: 12- 20 John 1:43-51</i>	<i>Jonah Psalm I Cori Mark 1</i>
VESTRY PERSON		LAUREN OCMAND	KRYSTAL EASON	KEN M
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	8:30 11:00	Brody Fitzpatrick Bert Babington	Lynnette van Heerden Ron Maberry	Janie P Brian V
LAY READER	11:00	Ken Murphy	Bert Babington	Ken M
LECTORS	8:30 11:00	Chelsea Maielli Dan Bennett	Lynnette van Heerden Julie Eason	Janie P Sissy B
ACOLYTES	8:30 11:00	Melanie Winkler Austin Shelton	Kelly Parker Jan Jones	Melani Austin
ALTAR GUILD		Debbie Fitzpatrick Holly Johnson	Debbie Fitzpatrick Holly Johnson	Janie P Linda I Chelse
USHERS	8:30 11:00	volunteer Mike Kendrick Mary Taylor	volunteer Mike Kendrick Sissy Brown	volunte Denise Mike K
MASTER OF CEREMONIES		Mike Endicott	Mike Endicott	Mike E

ST. JAMES TO HOLD BLUE SERVICE

On December 21 at 6:00pm St. James will hold a special Eucharist for people who are grieving or otherwise experiencing pain during the holidays. This Blue Service is intended to acknowledge that the Advent and Christmas seasons can be difficult for those who have experienced loss. It offers an invitation to share the burden of grief and experience understanding and healing.

Everyone is welcome to attend this service, either for healing or in support of others who are in search of healing.

Please join us for the

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2018

10am WORSHIP SERVICE

FOLLOWED BY
PARISH-WIDE LUNCHEON
and BUSINESS MEETING

Make parish plans for 2018

Elect vestry members

Elect delegates to the diocesan convention

Eat great food & enjoy great company

INFORMATION PLEASE!

At one time, long, long ago before we relied on Google for information, an almanac was published yearly with the title INFORMATION PLEASE! named after a quiz show of the same name. As the self-proclaimed historian of St. James, I feel motivated to clear up a couple of points that seem in dispute among our parishioners, so here goes:

THE GARRETT-HALL BUILDING

The Reverend Wallace Garrett served as our vicar from 1962 until 1971 when he met an untimely death. He was responsible for the planning and construction of St. James Episcopal Church on 7 acres on Flournoy-Lucas Rd. (now Bert Kouns). It was a multi-purpose building to be used for worship services and for church school classes. The plantation type brick building was bordered with a covered portico with offices for rector and secretary, kitchen, nursery, equipment room and a large open area convertible from sanctuary or fellowship hall to individual classrooms through collapsible partitions. I remember the arrangement well! The St. James Mission moved into the new building (our current Parish Hall) in March Of 1968. Father Garrett was also responsible for the first cross erected in early 1969. "Let there always be a cross," reads a marker at the bottom of the cross.

The Reverend S. Keith Hall was called to be vicar at St. James effective in September of 1971. Before this, Father Hall, who was serving as Assistant Rector at St. Paul's, came to St. James and took over the confirmation class begun by Father Garrett and presented the class to the Bishop the following May. Needless to say, the people of St. James were in pain and confusion, but Father Hall took charge and gave the congregation emotional and spiritual sustenance which was sorely needed. During his tenure a new sign was erected on Flournoy-Lucas and a new organ was secured from the old St. Vincent's chapel. The so-called Girl Scout Hut was completed in 1975 and was used by 9 to 11 troops weekly, another Christian family on Sundays and Wednesday evenings, dance groups, church school classes, and the EYC. Church dinners were often held there. In March of 1976, St. James Mission became a Parish Church and Father Hall became the first Rector of the fifth Episcopal Parish in Shreveport. In 1977 Father Hall headed the committee for a building fund for a new church building. He left St. James in 1980, serving several more churches including St. Matthew's church in Bogalusa. He died in 2003.

Years later, the so-called Scout Hut was refurbished (really an on-going project) and given the name The Garrett-Hall Building after the two men who did so much for St. James. I know the name is confusing if the you leave off the word building, but it should be left as it is. Through the years many celebrations, dinners, rummage sales, special events such as Stewardship dinners, Rally Day events (What happened to Rally Day?), and even this past year the vestry gave approval for our new rector to live there while she was looking for a house in Shreveport. It seems a shame that we do not utilize the Garrett-Hall Building more, considering the work and expense that has been put into it.

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden in the St. James courtyard was built by the family of a young woman, Dena Crick Aldridge, killed in an automobile accident. The garden was planted with flowers and two statues were put in place. Years later, two young boys broke the statues and the church bought another St. Francis statue, smaller than the original, if I remember correctly. Dena is not buried in the garden, neither are her ashes. In January of 2002, a former parishioner of St. James, Waldo Emerson Cragar, died, and his wife brought his ashes back to St. James to be placed in the memorial garden. Em's are the only ashes in the garden. There was a small stone with Em's name on it at one time. An angel commemorating the life of long-time parishioner and church administrator Margaret Anderson was placed beside the garden in March of 2017. I do not feel this garden should be done away with since Em's ashes are there, perhaps it can be enlarged.

I have put all this information in the newsletter before, but apparently it needs repeating, even going back to the history I wrote in 2005.

Mattie Jacks Masley, PhD
Professor Emerita, LSUS





WE'LL WORSHIP TOGETHER CHRISTMAS EVE

This year's Christmas Eve Services are scheduled at 4:30pm and 10:30pm. The early service will be the full Christmas Eve Eucharist, complete with music led by the Praise & Worship Team. The later service will be the traditional Christmas Eve Eucharistic service with organ and hymns. No matter which one you choose, remember that you are welcome to bring family members who may be visiting, friends, neighbors, etc. As with all of our services and events, everyone is welcome at St. James. Let's fill the church with people, as well as praise.

A TASK OF LOVE

You are invited to help green the church after the 10am service on December 24, the last Sunday of Advent. Gather your family, gloves, work clothes, and bring them all with you when you come for worship that day. We are foregoing the usual luncheon because of the Christmas Eve services later in the day.

For those new to the job, garlands will be strung around the worship area, the crèche will be set up, the Chrismon tree will be erected in the narthex, and the EYC poinsettias will be set around the altar.

The more who help, the faster and easier the task! Please join us.



CHRISTMAS DAY

A very simple, no-frills Christmas Day service will be held at St. James at 9:00am: Rite 2 Eucharist without music.



GRACE THE CHRISTMAS ALTAR WITH EYC POINSETTIAS

Throughout the year the altar at St. James is adorned with flowers, given to the glory of God and in honor of our loved ones. We generally have two lovely arrangements, but during the Christmas season we invite everyone to make a dedication to fill the space with poinsettias.

A fifteen dollar donation will help offset the cost of the flowers. Dedication forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins and the Parish Hall through the Advent season. Should there be any extra money collected, the proceeds will be placed into the EYC fund, which is used for service projects.

God and in honor of our loved ones. We generally have two lovely arrangements, but during the Christmas season we invite everyone to make a dedication to fill the space with poinsettias.



CHILDREN'S PAGEANT DECEMBER 17

All young people, of the parish no matter what age, are welcome to participate in the **Children's Pageant**. There are roles for the youngest all the way through high school aged youth. Please come and be a part of this annual St. James tradition.

The pageant will take place during the 11am service on December 17, in place of the sermon. The final rehearsal for this will be held between the services on December 17. As there are few speaking parts, it is not too late for a child to join the fun. Please come and support our children and youth as they teach us about the Christmas season.

If you have any questions or if you wish to volunteer, please contact Debbie Fitzpatrick at fitzpatricktdbr@bellsouth.net or 318-780-8088.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Will be held December 17, 2017 during the 11am service

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

at 4pm on December 17, 2017

HELP CARE FOR OUR DECORATIONS

You are invited to help de-green the church after the 11am service on December 31, making the space ready for the celebration of the Epiphany on January 7.

For those new to the job, garlands will be taken down and stored for next year, bows will be hung on hangers to prevent crushing, the crèche will be wrapped up and stored, the Chrismon tree in the narthex will be taken apart and decorations saved, the candelabras and candles will be removed and stored.

The more who help, the faster and easier the task! Please join us.



NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY DUE BEFORE JANUARY 14

Please begin considering who you believe would be an asset to the St. James Vestry and who you would like to represent the parish at the 2018 Diocesan Convention. Vestry nominations are due by January 14, two weeks before the Annual Meeting. This allows time for the names to be mailed to parishioners prior to the meeting, in accordance with state laws governing corporations. The names will be included in the January issue of the *Spirit of St. James*. Nominations for delegates may be made in advance or may be made from the floor during the meeting.

According to our Parish By-laws, qualifications to serve on the Vestry are:

- Be a communicant in good-standing
- Be a member of St. James for at least 6 months
- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a contributing member of record
- Be a regular attendee of worship and other parish events
- Be available to attend Vestry meetings and perform Vestry duties
- Be committed to the spiritual growth of St. James

Yes, nominations can be made through the Parish Office until January 14th, which is two weeks before the Annual Meeting. However, any nominations received after January 5th may not make it into materials mailed to parishioners prior to the meeting.

Names submitted between January 5th and January 14th will still be eligible for the positions of Vestry members and convention delegates and will be included in the ballots at the Annual Meeting. Bios just may not be available in advance mailings.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry of the congregation is responsible to provide a safe working environment for the Rector as well as for the congregation. To that end, Vestry members should participate in safe boundary education for both children and adults, provide for the temporal care and spiritual renewal of the Rector, and support the ministry of the Rector.

Vestry members attend an annual retreat which includes a mutual ministry review of the Vestry and Rector and development of goals for the congregation over the following year. While the Vestry is responsible for setting policies for the operation of the congregation (that are in keeping with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Western Louisiana, and the laws of the State of Louisiana), **the Rector's duties include enacting these policies. The Rector also has sole oversight of all employees of the parish.** In short, the Vestry shall minister in union with the Rector.

The Vestry is responsible for seeking ways in which the congregation may minister to the needs of the City and Parish in which it is set, and shall participate in formation programs meant to teach the faith, expand the ministry of the congregation, and live the Gospel.

(paraphrased from the contractual agreement between Vestry and Rector of St. James Episcopal Church)

I WANT TO BELIEVE IT WAS THE ADVERTISING

During the month of November the local high schools held food drives to benefit the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana. Students took non-perishable goods to school with them for donation, and to give them incentive, they competed with each other to see which school could donate the largest number of pounds. For the third consecutive year Caddo Magnet High was the winner. Everything about this seems commendable, until you look at the numbers. In 2015 CMH collected around 15,000 pounds of food. In 2016 the students collected 7,777 pounds. In 2017 they collected between 2,000 and 3,000. And yet, that school continued to be the winner of the competition.

What does that say about the state of our economy? What does it say about the mindset of our population regarding caring for those in need? It is my prayer that the economy has not taken such a hard hit that the general public in Shreveport cannot afford to give to help the hungry. It is equally my prayer that the general population in our fair city is not becoming apathetic toward the plight of those less fortunate. I am hoping that the folk in charge of advertising this program became lax, **thinking that because they do this every year that everyone knows about it and therefore they don't have to advertise it as much. But I honestly don't know what happened.**

I do know that as Christians it is our responsibility to fill such needs in our community. Whatever caused this disturbing trend toward less giving in this one area, we have the ability to make a difference by helping to make up the difference. By looking outside ourselves and our immediate families and circumstances, we can see the needs in our communities.

We can notice the neighbor who needs help getting the garbage cans to the curb and provide some **assistance. We can see the family whose children don't have decent shoes and help them out. We can send extra food in our children's lunches so they can share with their friends who are hungry.** We can give coats to the Gift of Warmth program, drive for the Meals on Wheels program, put meals in the freezer for the Filling in the Gaps program. We can grow vegetables for hungry people in our community.

We can keep our eyes open for opportunities to show our love for our neighbors, to care for our community, and to welcome others into our lives. Thank-you to all of you for the many things you do to improve the community in which we live. Thank-you for remembering that the Episcopal Church welcomes us all.

—Jnanne Zepeda

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

If you would like an announcement placed in the Sunday bulletin, please submit it by 10:00 am on the previous Wednesday. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30am until 2:00pm. Announcements that are in printed form may be mailed, sent through e-mail to stjames_sport@att.net, or dropped at the parish office.

Newsletter deadline: January 1st

SPREAD THE WORD

Would you like to brag on your family's achievements, share family milestones with friends, or invite the parish to an upcoming event? You can do so easily by submitting articles to the parish office for publication in the Spirit. There is always room for news of a baptism, wedding, or school achievement. Photographs and stories can be sent via e-mail to stjames_sport@att.net or dropped off at the parish office. And if you are shy about doing the writing, just telephone the information to 686-1261 and the writing will take care of itself.

*Our Mission Statement: A COMMUNITY CALLED BY GOD TO WORSHIP,
LOVE, AND SERVE.*

Our Schedule of Services:

Sunday—Holy Eucharist, 8:30am

followed by Coffee Hour and donuts in the Parish Hall

Sunday School, 9:45am

Holy Eucharist, 11:00am

Wednesday—Holy Eucharist with Unction, 10am



MY, HOW THE GARDEN GROWS

In November Jacob King took time to inspect the garden, and was quite impressed with the size of the cabbage leaves. The winter garden is in full glory and is already yielding broccoli and lettuce. Those cabbages should be ready to help people ring in the New Year!



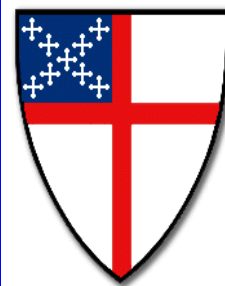
**The parish office
will be closed**

December 25

December 26

December 27

January 1



Vision Statement of St. James Episcopal Church: We see St. James as a spirit-led congregation that is a beacon of God's love shining in the community, welcoming all by reaching out through worship, service, mission, and programming to bring peace and healing to all of God's children. We strive to serve our members by nourishing our faith, giving support in times of need, and becoming a congregation from which community-based outreach programs have their genesis.